

Forskerforbundet Membership: Who Qualifies, What You Get, and What Sets Us Apart

Forskerforbundet, the Norwegian Association of Researchers, offers membership to a wide range of professionals. This document outlines who qualifies for membership, the benefits of joining, and what makes our union stand out. Additionally, it addresses ten common claims about union organization.

Membership Qualifications

Forskerforbundet membership is open to employees in scientific, administrative, and other professional positions that require higher education.

This includes, but is not limited to, researchers, archivists, advisors, engineers, meteorologists, and librarians. Approximately 28% of our members belong to this broader professional group, and this number is growing.

Students and managers also qualify for membership.

As a Forskerforbundet member, you will receive:

- Assistance in salary negotiations – we negotiate your salary.
- Collective rights and a higher degree of workplace protection, as our union has negotiated these terms on behalf of employees in Norway.
- Assistance in assessing the legality of your employment contract and advocating for fixed-term positions when appropriate.
- A social and professional network through your local union at the workplace.
- A basic insurance package and a good banking deal with Nordea.
- The chance to participate in free webinars and courses organized by the union.
- Our free magazine Forskerforum, delivered to you ten times a year.

What makes Forskerforbundet stand out?

Forskerforbundet has a unique role in research policy with skilled local union representatives who assist our members in questions regarding research, higher education, cultural heritage preservation and the dissemination of knowledge.

We are particularly stressing the importance of management and financing, as well as working conditions, at institutions of higher education and research. Our union represents employees in all different fields – particularly within research, higher education, and knowledge dissemination.

We are the largest and most dominant trade union within the sector, and thus we get to participate in councils regarding cases concerning our members.

Addressing Common Claims

1. “I get the same rights as someone who is organized”

– While some employers try to follow the rules, there is no guarantee. Union membership provides a stronger legal foundation and degree of protection.

2. “I am temporarily employed, so it doesn't make sense for me to join a union.”

– Temporary employees are often in a vulnerable position, and research shows they experience poorer salary development if unorganized. Forskerforbundet can help assess the legality of your employment and advocate for more secure contracts.

3. “I am not in a scientific position; can I still join?”

– Yes, Forskerforbundet welcomes members in a wide range of professional roles, not just researchers.

4. “I am a student, not planning to become a researcher, so why join?”

– As a student member, you can influence the quality of your education and your future industry. You also receive valuable benefits like insurance and mental health services.

5. “I am a manager, so there's no point in joining a union.”

– Managers are also employees, and Forskerforbundet protects the rights of all members, including those in managerial roles.

6. “I negotiate on my own behalf.”

– While you are free to negotiate independently, being part of a union provides more leverage and access to skilled representatives with extensive knowledge of employee rights.

7. “I don't want to conflict with my employer.”

– Our goal is to ensure your employer follows the rules, and we've found that union membership can lead to positive cooperation between employers and employees.

8. “The membership is too expensive.”

– By enjoying our membership benefits (such as our insurance packages and banking deal), it can result in you saving money. Otherwise, you get to deduct most of the membership fee from your taxes. Consider your membership as an insurance in your employment in case you need it one day.

9. “The company needs me, and I'm not afraid to lose my job.”

– While you may feel secure, the job market is constantly evolving. Union membership provides a safeguard should your employer need to downsize.

10. “Does Forskerforbundet have any ties to any political party?”

– No, we are a non-partisan organization focused solely on protecting the rights of our members.

Where can I find more information?

[About Forskerforbundet](#)

[Membership benefits](#)

[Membership insurances](#)

[Registration form](#)